

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,543

Examiner

Nasser Ahmad

Applicant(s)

IWASAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/7/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-15 and 18-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/4/04, 3/30/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Drawings filed on 12/31/2003 is acceptable to the examiner.
Continuation of Attachment(s) 3: 6/28/06.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Olga Berson on 6/22/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 3 and 5, line 1, before "display", the phrase - - combination of a - - has been inserted.

Claims 3 and 5, line 1, the phrase "for allowing" has been replaced by - -and- -.

Claims 3 and 5, line 2, the phrase "to be" has been deleted.

Claims 3 and 5, line 4, the word "which" has been replaced by the phrase - -the combination comprising: the plurality of product-enclosed bags and the display strip, wherein the display strip- -.

Claims 3 and 5, line 6, after "failure,", the phrase - -said components being present in a single layer as a mixture, - -has been added.

Claims 3 and 5, line 7, the phrase "bondable to a surface of the bag" has been changed to - - bonded to a surface of each of the bags- -.

Claims 3 and 5, line 9, after "broken,", the phrase - - without damaging the structure or appearance of the bag, - - has been added.

Art Unit: 1772

Claims 4, 6-10, 13, and 18-20, line 1, the phrase "display strip" has been changed to - -combination- - .

Claims 11, 12, 14 and 15, lines 1-9, the phrase "A display strip ...layer is broken" has been replaced by the phrase - - the combination of claim 3 or 5- -.

Claims 16-17 and 21 have been cancelled as being redundant in view of the amendments made.

In the Preliminary Amendment filed on 12/31/2003, under "amendment to the specification", the status of application serial no 10/404920 has been updated to - -now abandoned- -.

Specification, page-33 (abstract), lines 1-5 have been deleted to present the abstract in a single paragraph.

Specification, page-5, line 5, after phrase "2 is", has been replaced by - -2 a, b, and c shows- -.

Specification, page-5, line 8, after phrase "4 is", has been replaced by - -4 a, b, a' and b' shows- -.

Specification, page-5, line 11, after phrase "5 is", has been replaced by - - 5 a and b shows- -.

Specification, page-5, line 13, after phrase "6 is", has been replaced by - -6 a and b shows- -.

Specification, page-5, line 16, after phrase "7 is", has been replaced by - -7 a and b shows- -.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Art Unit: 1772

A review of applicants' argument made in the amendment filed on 4/7/2006 and a review of the instant amended claims has convinced the examiner that the claims are allowable over the applied prior art of record. The prior art fails to teach a combination of a display strip and a plurality of product-enclosed bags bonded by heat-sealing to the strip with a sealant layer, said sealant layer comprises a single layer mixture of an adhesive component and a component for cohesion failure, that the sealant layer is broken without damaging the structure or appearance of the bag, and that the adhesive component is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, a copolymer of propylene and any other alpha olefin and a low density polyethylene or that the component for cohesion failure is a styrene polymer, polybutene-1, or their combination. Also, no evidentiary support could be provided to support the position that the instant claimed invention would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

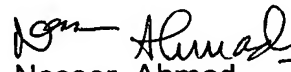
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

Art Unit: 1772

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Nasser Ahmad 7/13/06
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
July 13, 2006.